ARCTIC PACIFIC LAKES PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

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Approved by

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ARCTIC PACIFIC LAKES PROVINCIAL PARK
Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Located 90 km northeast of Prince George in the Hart Ranges, Arctic Pacific Lakes Provincial Park features three small lakes that straddle the Continental Divide. Surrounded by the rolling terrain of the central Hart Ranges, Arctic, Portage and Pacific lakes provided the route for Alexander Mackenzie on his first overland crossing of the North American continent in 1793.

Primary Role
The **primary** role of the park is to provide significant representation of the SBSvk and old growth forest stands in the Hart Ranges Ecosection. The park contains very high fall and spring grizzly bear populations and diverse fish populations (lake trout, bull trout, rainbow trout, kokanee, mountain whitefish, redside shiner, chinook salmon, and Arctic grayling), and protects year round caribou habitat.

Secondary Role
The **secondary** role of the park is to protect the 1793 route of Alexander Mackenzie through the continental divide. The 1990 Special Features assessment considered this route to be of regional to provincial significance.

Tertiary Role
The tertiary role of the park is to provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities. Presently there is established river boat use on Parsnip River to Arctic Lake. Good fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities are present on the lakes and there is some canoeing. Canoeing on James Creek is discouraged for public safety reasons.

Known Management Issues	**Response**
Snowmobiling, motorized boat access and mechanized activities (mountain biking).	The continued use of jet boats and snowmobiling was highly controversial and left unresolved at the Prince George Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP). The resolution of this issue was deferred to a future park planning process. In the interim, the following uses are proposed as acceptable: • jet boat access to the west end of Arctic Lake • snowmobiling
Public safety	This park has very high grizzly populations and habitat values. The lush vegetation in the valley bottom will provide challenges in managing for human/bear conflicts. For this reason, a formalized portage trail along James Creek will not be permitted.
BRIM (Backcountry Recreation Impact Monitoring)	Monitor Arctic Lake for increasing recreational use resulting from improved Forest Service road in the Parsnip drainage and motorized boat access.
Protection of cultural values	8 archaeological sites are known to exist at Arctic

	Lake. Increased recreational use will require an enhanced management presence to ensure further disturbance does not occur to these sites.
Aircraft closure	Consider aircraft landing and take off closures for Arctic, Pacific and Portage lakes to reduce impact to sensitive species. This proposal will have to be reviewed by the LRMP once a Management Direction Statement for the park is completed.
Canoe use on James Creek.	Recreational use on James Creek between the east side of Pacific Lake and the McGregor River will not be promoted or encouraged due to public safety concerns.
McLeod Treaty adhesion	2 ha on Arctic Lake has been awarded to the McLeod Lake band. Potential impacts to the park are unknown at this time.
Jetboat access	Ensure any commercial access to the park is under a Park Use Permit.

Zoning

Arctic Pacific Lakes Provincial Park includes 2 zones:

- Natural Environment (protection of scenic values and provision of backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment) on the lake chain where snowmobiling is permitted in winter and motorized boat access is permitted to Arctic Lake during summer (approximately 1,817 hectares or 13% of the park).
- Wilderness Recreation (protection of a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and provision of backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment where air access may be permitted to designated sites) in the remainder of the park (approximately 12,070 hectares or 87% of the park).

CONSERVATION

Representation		
• ecosection	X	Southern Hart Ranges (SHR). 19.54% of this ecosection is protected. Arctic Pacific Lakes makes a minor contribution to the representation of the ecosection accounting for 8.12% of the overall protected area representation of the ecosection.
• biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	X	ESSFwk2 – 10.86% protected; Arctic Pacific Lakes contributes 5.84% of overall protected area representation of this ecosystem. SBS vk – only 3.62% protected; Arctic Pacific Lakes contributes the second largest amount (30.3%) of representation of this ecosystem.
Special Feature	X	Arctic-Pacific Lakes on the continental divide and as part of Alexander Mackenzie's route were assessed as being of regional to provincial significance in the 1990 BC Parks Special Feature document.
Rare/Endangered Values		Unknown
Scientific/Research Opportunities	X	High grizzly populations

RECREATION

Representation:		
• backcountry	X	Commercial and private jet boat use to Arctic Lake.
• destination		
• travel corridor		
• local recreation		
Special Opportunities		
Education/Interpretation Opportunities		

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation

Special Feature	**X**	Location where Alexander Mackenzie crossed from the Arctic to the Pacific watershed in his crossing of the North American continent.

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations	**X**	McLeod Lake Indian Band Arctic Lake Schedule C Lands
Relationship to Other PAs	**X**	Other protected areas in Southern Hart Ranges include sections of Monkman, Kakwa and Wapiti provincial parks. Other nearby protected areas with developed facilities include Bijoux Falls, Tudyah Lake, Carp Lake, and Whiskers Point.
Co-operative Management Arrangements		
Partnerships		
Vulnerability	**X**	Archaeological sites (8) on Arctic Lake. The Conservation Risk Assessment Process identified 2 risk factors (the shape and the size of the park) for the park and rated them as moderately significant. Six stressors/threats were identified for the park: boat/all types was rated as highly significant; roadway/potential, temporary trail, noise, portage trail and forest harvesting activity were all rated with low significance.
Relationship to Other Strategies	**X**	Arctic Pacific Lakes was established through the Prince George Land and Resource Management Plan.

Area: 13,887 ha

Date of establishment: June 29, 2000

Zoning Map - Arctic Pacific Lakes Provincial Park

Projection: Albers Equal Area
Datum: NAD83

Natural Environment
Wilderness Recreation
Protected Area Boundary

0 km

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